THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Amnesty International is an International NGO based in London and is one among the many NGOs based outside India which bring out reports on alleged human rights violations, from time to time, all over the world including India. The methods used by such organizations to gather information have often been questioned, particularly as they are not free from bias. It is not the policy of the Government to react to such reports by International NGOs on internal matters of India.

(c) to (e) The NHRC has issued guidelines to all State Governments/ Union Territories to inform the Commission of incidents of custodial death within 24 hours of its occurrence. The Commission recommends disciplinary/departmental action as well as initiation of prosecution against the delinquent police officials in case where *prima-facie* case of custodial violence is established. The NHRC also recommends monetary compensation to the next of kin of deceased. Further the NHRC from time to time, while disposing off cases of custodial deaths, makes appropriate recommendation to the State authorities to prevent recurrence of such custodial deaths in future. Section 176 of The Criminal Procedure Code has also been amended *vide* the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 to provide that in the case of death or disappearance of a person or rape of a woman while in the custody of the police, there shall be a mandatory judicial inquiry and in case of death, examination of the dead body shall be conducted within twenty four hours of death.

Panels for tackling Kashmir problem

211. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir in May last, formed five panels to tackle various aspects relating to the Kashmir problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action so far taken by each of the said panels;

(d) whether Government are satisfied with the progress made by the said panels; and

(e) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the working of these panels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Prime Minister during the Second Round Table Conference on Jammu and Kashmir held at Srinagar on May 24-25, 2006, suggested the creation of five Working Groups comprising members from amongst thost present at the conference or those nominated by parties and groups. The composition of these Groups is to be decided by the State Government in consultation with all parties and groups concerned.

These Working Groups are expected to deliberate and make recommendations on issues, namely (i) Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State (ii) Strengthening relations across the Line of Control (iii) Economic development (iv) Ensuring good governance (v) Strengthening relations between the State and the Centre. These groups are allowed to co-opt experts, if they so desire. As reported by the State Government, the following eminent persons have accepted the invitation of Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to head the Working Group mentioned against each:

1. Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari: Confidence building measures across segments of society in the State
2. Shri M. K. Rasgotra: Strengthening relations across the Line of Control
3. Dr. C. Rangarajan: Economic Development
4. Shri N. C. Saxena: Ensuring Good Governance

The State Government has so far constituted the Working Group on "Confidence building measures across segment of society in the State" only. The remaining four Working Groups are yet to be constituted.

Public opinion about police

212. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the very people whom police